



News Release

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Spring Valley munitions destruction begins

BALTIMORE – Today the U.S. Army began munitions destruction operations at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-managed Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (SVFUDS) in northwest Washington, D.C. The Army will conduct these operations using contained detonation technology, the Army's Explosive Destruction System (EDS), on federal property near the Spring Valley neighborhood at a location that has been sited and approved by the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board.

USACE continues to manage a very active program to search for and recover World War I-related military munitions at the SVFUDS. As a result of investigations on Glenbrook Road, USACE recovered five munitions that contain chemical agent.

The EDS was designed by the Army specifically to provide on-site treatment of chemical munitions in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The EDS has been approved for use in the field by the Army and the Department of Defense and has been used at many locations across the country to safely destroy more than 1,700 items, including 15 items safely destroyed at the SVFUDS in 2003. The EDS has a dedicated crew of highly trained and experienced professionals who employ multiple layers of redundant safety measures during all operations. The EDS system has an impeccable safety record. The entire operation is located within a containment structure that is under full air filtration and negative air pressure. In addition to the five chemical munitions, 19 non-agent, liquid filled munitions and one metal cylinder will be destroyed using the same system.

All protective measures used in the destruction operations were reviewed and approved by the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety and independently by the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board. USACE has worked in close coordination with the District of Columbia and the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that detailed plans are in place to ensure safety both on the federal property and in the local Spring Valley neighborhood.

"Every plan we have at Spring Valley is about ensuring the public's safety, especially in this operation," said Col. David Anderson, Commander of the USACE, Baltimore District. "The safety and health of the residents of Spring Valley and our workers is always our first priority."

The munitions destruction operation is expected to be complete by mid-May.

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